

prescription drug distribution at the expense of seniors.

Seniors know that people in other countries pay 20 to 50 percent less for their medications. Consider this: Zantac, made by GlaxoWellcome in the United Kingdom is marked up by 58 percent in the United States. Our seniors deserve better. They deserve the same medication at the same price. No one should have to choose between food and vital medications.

The Republican leadership should stop supporting the pharmaceutical industry's race for profit at the expense of seniors' financial security. They should stop their rhetoric and false issues and talk about the real issue, which is the cost of prescription drugs. We have the opportunity to support the safe reimportation of prescription drugs. We should do it, and we should do it immediately while we are still in this session of Congress.

Let me tell my colleagues that the Republican House leadership does not want to cover seniors through Medicare, and they do not want to bring the cost down through the reimportation of prescription drugs.

#### GET RID OF FRAUD, WASTE AND ABUSE AT DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

(Mr. SCHAFFER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, back home in Colorado, school is just getting underway. Three of those kids in public schools are my own, and I care about education. And I, like most parents, want the U.S. Department of Education to get the money that it spends to the classroom. I do not want to see the Department waste any more on bureaucracy and red tape, and I am tired of the theft, the fraud, and the abuse that goes on at the Department of Education that robs children of the precious resources they need.

Mr. Speaker, we spend \$40 million a year on accountants and overseers and auditors to make sure that the money the Department gets does get to the children and the classroom. But it was a car dealer in Hyattsville, Maryland, that found the latest fraud of Department employees defrauding \$2 million of the U.S. Department of Education into personal bank accounts. Mr. Speaker, let us get money to the classroom.

Let us get rid of the waste, fraud, and abuse at the U.S. Department of Education. Let us put children before crime and bureaucracy.

#### HCFA'S BAD ADVICE TO SENIOR CITIZENS IN HOUSTON

(Mr. GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, during the August district work period, I sponsored a senior citizens forum with invitations to representatives from the Social Security Administration and the Health Care Financing Administration, and they participated.

Seniors do want a prescription drug benefit as part of Medicare, but Houston seniors are worried because, at the end of December, they will be losing our biggest HMO provider for Medicare, NYLCare-65, one of our largest. They have given notice that they are not going to serve the Houston market. HCFA advised the over 100 seniors in attendance, some of whom are currently enrolled in NYLCare-65, not to worry, not to do anything until after October 1. That way they would have 3 months to decide where they would go before the end of the year because the contract lasted until December 31. This included enrolling in the one sole remaining HMO in the Houston market, Secure Horizons.

Yesterday, I found out that HCFA has granted a temporary capacity waiver to Secure Horizons, which basically freezes their enrollments effective October 1 for 120 days to February 1. This temporary capacity waiver will keep seniors from being able to have the opportunity to select the one remaining HMO. HCFA should have notified us; and they gave my constituents false information in August.

#### REPUBLICANS WANT TO PAY DOWN THE DEBT

(Mr. CHABOT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, would we go on a huge credit card spending spree if we knew that once the bill came we would leave it to our children; that they would be responsible for paying it off? Of course not. Most responsible Americans work hard to make sure they can give their kids a good life. They want to leave their children something when they die. Most responsible Americans would never dream of leaving their children a pile of debt for their inheritance.

That is exactly what the Federal Government has been doing for years. For 40 years, Democrats here in Washington spent money on bigger and bigger government and created a bigger and bigger debt. They knew our children would be the ones saddled with the bill, but they just kept spending. That was wrong.

Republicans are putting an end to that kind of spending spree and that kind of spend now and pay later mentality. That is why we want to pay down the debt. We want to pay off those bills so our children do not have to.

Let us work together to make sure our legacy to our children is a sound economy, lower taxes, safe neighborhoods and quality schools, instead of decades worth of bad debt.

#### LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM

(Mr. TIERNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TIERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues who have yet to do so to join almost 80 of my colleagues and myself in sending a bipartisan letter to the appropriators. That letter would support the National Health Service Corps Loan Repayment Program.

As my colleagues have probably seen, news accounts have highlighted funding shortfalls in the National Health Service Corps. The Corps recruits health care professionals to work in medically underserved communities. Regardless of one's particular disposition concerning how to improve health care, it is widely accepted that this important program provides underserved Americans with vital health care.

We should not allow the current disagreement on health care matters to prevent us from properly funding this program and ensuring that not only the current participants can continue to provide this care but that we can attract enough clinicians to meet all the needs of these communities.

The \$49 million required to cover existing shortfalls is a fair price to pay to help our doctors and nurses help our neediest constituents. Let us take this opportunity to address this urgent need. If my colleagues have not already done so, I urge them to join us in this important effort.

#### SEEDS OF OPPORTUNITY/FEAR PROFITEERS

(Mr. SMITH of Michigan asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I would like to invite my colleagues, the press, all those that might be interested in a press briefing that we are having at 11:30 this morning in room 1302 of the Longworth. That is 11:30, 1302, on fear profiteering.

Do we select our science and those stories that are going to justify what policy we want to pass and the decisions we want to make, or do we base our policy on the kind of real science that is going to make this country and the people of the world better off?

I have been doing a study on seeds of opportunity, which is in the biotechnology. In Europe, they have brought that scientific research to a halt. What is going to happen in this country, as we look at the alar in apples; as we look at organic foods?

We need to make sure we base our policy on real science.

Mr. Speaker, I submit the agenda on the 11:30 briefing on fear profiteers for the RECORD.

Introduction: Steve Milloy, publisher of *www.junkscience.com*

Speaking Order: Nick Smith.

Fred Smith, Competitive Enterprise Institute.

Bonner Cohen, Lexington Institute, Editor of *Fear Profiteers*.

Alex Avery, Hudson Institute.

#### HMO'S WANT \$15 BILLION FROM CONGRESS

(Mr. BROWN of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, last year taxpayers spent \$3 billion more on people enrolled in Medicare HMOs than if they had remained in traditional Medicare. It cost the public more to pay managed care plans than to pay for the same plans financed through traditional Medicare.

I do not recall Medicare managed care plans offering to give back the excess dollars they were paid then. I do recall them unceremoniously dropping 200,000 seniors that year, claiming the Federal Government was underpaying them.

Now Medicare HMOs and Republican leaders are asking Congress to devote \$15 billion, three-fourths of the dollars set aside for Medicare funding increases this year, to Medicare HMOs. They serve 14 percent of the Medicare population; they want 75 percent of the money. They want \$15 billion.

That is \$15 billion that Republicans want to give to the managed care industry after they abandoned 900,000 seniors; not because these plans were going bankrupt, but because other lines of business were more profitable for insurance companies HMOs. It is incomprehensible to me, Mr. Speaker, that my Republican colleagues and the Presidential candidates are trying to sell the public on privatizing Medicare. It is a bad idea.

#### WASTE, FRAUD, AND ABUSE AT U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

(Mr. THUNE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THUNE. Mr. Speaker, our children are our most important and precious resource. We ought to make very certain that they have the opportunity to learn in safe and drug-free schools, to be taught by our brightest and best teachers, and to ensure that they have the highest possible opportunity to learn. And that is one thing we have been failing our children on.

Mr. Speaker, today the other thing I would note about our educational sys-

tem is that our parents ought to know that when they send their education tax dollars to Washington that they are going to get spent on our children, on helping them learn at the fastest rate possible. This last week we learned of another blatant example of waste, fraud and abuse in Washington, and that was when \$2 million at the Education Department was siphoned off from two schools in South Dakota and spent to buy a Cadillac, an SUV, and a house in Maryland. It took a car dealer, a car dealer, who broke this story, because the Education Department did not know what was going on.

It is another example, Mr. Speaker, of why we need to get the education dollars back into the classroom, back to our school administrators, and our school boards and our parents so that they are being spent on our children and not in the Washington bureaucracy.

□ 1030

#### ENERGY POLICY

(Mr. GEJDENSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. Speaker, the American people are being held hostage by foreign oil producers and American energy companies. We are now heading for our second cycle where we go from heating oil crisis to gas crisis, and now we are heading back for another heating oil crisis. At a time when oil companies should have been filling the reserves of Americans to keep their homes warm this winter, they were shipping refined No. 2 fuel oil overseas.

We need aggressive action from this administration: the release of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve. We need to have weatherization funds. We need real conservation programs that have been blocked for the last 20 years since the Reagan presidency. We have had no energy policy as far as conservation, alternative energy, energy conservation. We need to move on these things now or seniors and others will see their lives and their life savings threatened this winter for a shortage of oil.

We have made some progress. We have got millions of barrels in reserve, now gallons in reserve in Connecticut; but we need to do a lot more. We need the Senate to move the legislation that gives authorization for the heating oil reserve.

#### PRESCRIPTION DRUG COVERAGE FOR SENIORS

(Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, time is running out for

America's seniors. America's seniors are well aware now that many of them cannot afford the drugs that their doctors prescribe. If they in fact buy those drugs, we find that they are taking the medicine one every other day instead of one every day or three times a day instead of four times a day to try to extend the medicine at the peril of their own health. Time is running out for them because the Republican leadership refuses to bring forth a real prescription drug benefit.

Rather than use the prescription drug benefit to try to undermine the Medicare system as George W. Bush has or to undermine the Medicare system as the Republican leadership has—

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SUNUNU). All members are reminded that although the debate may criticize the policies of the President or the Vice President, or the nominees for those respective offices, remarks should avoid personality and, therefore, may not include personal accusations or characterizations.

The gentleman may continue in order.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. I stand corrected, Mr. Speaker. It is George W. Bush's Medicare prescription drug benefit plan that undermines Medicare, not George W. Bush but his Medicare plan, so everybody is corrected.

He would undermine the system and put these seniors at the peril of the same HMOs that are canceling their coverage all over the country, put them at the peril of the insurance companies, put them at the peril of pharmaceutical companies. What we need is a prescription drug benefit as part of Medicare so that senior citizens can get the medicine they need.

#### CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4919, SECURITY ASSISTANCE ACT OF 2000

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 584 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 584

*Resolved*, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 4919) to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 and the Arms Export Control Act to make improvements to certain defense and security assistance provisions under those Acts, to authorize the transfer of naval vessels to certain foreign countries, and for other purposes. All points of order against the conference report and against its consideration are waived. The conference report shall be considered as read.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Florida (Mr. DIAZ-BALART) is recognized for 1 hour.